French 436 – Bad Girls of Nineteenth-century French Literature
FRE 436.001

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Office Hours: MW 12-1pm and 2:15-3:15pm, TR 8:30-9:30am
*or by advance appointment
French Table (at Java Jack’s) Tuesdays 4:30-6pm
Department: Languages, Cultures and Communication
Class meeting time and place: MW 1-2:15pm, Ferguson 173

Why have so many “bad girls” created by French writers during the nineteenth century remained part of contemporary culture? Whether it’s Anne Hathaway’s portrayal of Fantine, Carmen played by Paz Vega or Beyoncé, Boule de Suif transposed to an Old West setting in Stagecoach, or Verdi’s La Traviata based on Dumas fils’ La Dame aux camélias, these scandalous women continue to fascinate modern audiences. In exploring this theme, we will examine literature of nineteenth-century France in a variety of forms: novels, novellas, theater and poetry while familiarizing ourselves with some of the best known authors of the time and with some lesser-known ones who warrant rediscovery.

Goals:
At the end of this course students will:
1. Have an understanding of cultural context as related to the literature of nineteenth-century France.
2. Be able to analyze literary texts (poetry, novels, novellas and plays) in context
3. Understand the distinction between grisiette, lorette, prostituée, courtisane, demi-mondaine and other categorizations of “bad girls” within historical-cultural context.
4. Be able to consider scholarly material related to course themes
5. Improve writing and presentation skills in French

Claire d’Albe – Sophie Cottin (1799)
La Fille aux yeux d’or - Honoré de Balzac (1835)
Carmen – Prosper Mérimée (1845)
La Dame aux camélias – Alexandre Dumas (fils) (1852 – première représentation)
Femmes – Marie Krysinska
“Le Bonheur dans le crime” -Jules Barbey-d’Aurevilly (dans Les Diaboliques en 1874)
Boule de suif – Guy de Maupassant (1880)
Evaluation of students:
Participation - 150 points
Student-led discussion - 50 points
Choose your own assignment - 100 points
Papers - 375 points (125 X 3)
Presentation of article - 125 points
Research paper - 200 points
Total - 1000 points

Grades are as follows:
895-1000 points = A, 795-894 points = B, 695-794 points = C, 595-694 points = D, 594 points and below = F

Class Participation/Attendance: Attending class and participating actively on a daily basis are necessary for a student's success in this class. As this is a literature class it should go without saying that you MUST read the assignment before coming to class. If I do not believe that you have read I will not give you participation points for that day. I will record a participation grade for each student on a weekly basis. A student can receive a maximum of 10 points per week. Grades are assessed based on a student’s engagement in the class, contribution of ideas, preparation and attention to ideas of other students. To ensure that students are well prepared for class, I will often draw a student’s name at the beginning of class and ask the student to explain an aspect of the text for the day’s class. Eating and chewing gum make speaking French very difficult and are thus not permitted in the classroom. Engaging in these activities will result in a lower participation score.

Tardiness/Absence: Students are expected to be on time and a penalty for tardiness is counted against the student’s overall participation as discussed in the Participation Criteria. Students are allowed 2 absences per semester at their discretion. This could be for school-sponsored events, a religious observance, illness or family related events or emergencies. However, once the 2 absences are surpassed for any reason, students lose 5 points of participation per absence unless other arrangements are made with Dr. Johnston immediately. Arriving to class tardy will drop your weekly grade by two points for every day you are late. If you must miss class for any reason, you will still be responsible for all assignments due. In case of illness, contact instructor via e-mail or call a classmate to keep up with assignments.

Student led discussion: Throughout the semester, students will be asked to be prepared to start a class discussion in French on an aspect of the text for the following class. Each student will lead or co-lead a discussion twice. Your grade for this portion of the class is based on your leading of the discussion AND your evident preparation for the class as you participate in the discussions prepared by your classmates.
Choose your own assignment: Do you have musical talent? Do you like to act? Would you like to lead a discussion with the French Club? You will have the opportunity to select your own assignment in collaboration with Dr. Johnston, but the assignment must be linked to course material.

Dissertations: Students will have three 2-3 page papers due this semester. These are to be essays on assigned topics, not research based. Late work is not accepted without documentation and assignments are due at the beginning of class.

Presentation of article: In pairs, students will read a scholarly article based on one of the texts and present it to the class along with their reactions to the article’s ideas.

Research paper: In lieu of a final exam, students will write a 7-9 page researched paper as a final project. This paper will be an expansion of one of the shorter papers written for class earlier in the semester. Papers are due Wednesday of finals week by 5pm.

Students with disabilities: If you have a learning or physical disability, visual or hearing impairment that might affect your progress in French, please see me. Considerations will be made for those students with documented learning disabilities. For more information contact Disability Services.

University Policies: Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Academic dishonesty, cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. All students in this class are expected to comply to university policies regarding academic honesty. Click here to see university policy on academic integrity. Any student caught cheating will receive a grade of zero on the assignment and will be reported to the dean of his or her major school. All homework should be your own. Students are not allowed to use translation programs, native speakers or other students to assist
them with assignments. Doing so constitutes academic dishonesty and will be dealt with according to university policy. When using tutors such as the AARC, they must follow my guidelines. Click here to see tutoring guidelines. If you have questions in regard to assignments, please see me.

Withheld grades: Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Programme provisoire

**Semaine #1** 20/1  
mercredi : Introduction au cours

**Semaine #2** 25/1-27/1  
lundi : Claire d’Albe lettres I-III  
mercredi : Claire d’Albe lettres IV-XII

**Semaine #3** 1/2-3/2  
lundi : Claire d’Albe lettres XIII-XVIII  
mercredi : Claire d’Albe lettres XIX-XXVII

**Semaine #4** 8/2-10/2  
lundi : Claire d’Albe lettres XXVIII-XXXIII  
mercredi : Claire d’Albe XXXIV-XXXIX  
Présentation/article #1

**Semaine #5** 15/2-17/2  
lundi : pas de cours  
mercredi : Claire d’Albe XL- XLIV

**Semaine #6** 22/2-24/2  
lundi : Claire d’Albe (terminez)  
mercredi : La Fille aux yeux d’or (ch. 1)  
*Dissertation #1 à rendre - vendredi, avant 16h

**Semaine #7** 29/2-2/3  
lundi : La Fille aux yeux d’or (ch. 2)  
mercredi : La Fille aux yeux d’or (ch. 3)  
Présentation/article #2
**Semaine #8 7/3-9/3**
lundi : *Carmen* chapitre 1
mercredi : *Carmen* chapitre 2 (première moitié)

VACANCES DE PRINTEMPS 15/3-19/3

**Semaine #9 19/3-21/3**
lundi : *Carmen*, chapitre 2, chapitre 3 (jusqu'à la page 67)
mercredi : Terminez *Carmen*
présentation/article #3
*Dissertation #2 à rendre - mercredi avant 16h

VACANCES DE PAQUES

**Semaine #10 30/3**
mercredi : *La Dame aux camélias* - acte 1

**Semaine #11 4/4-6/4**
lundi : *La Dame aux camélias* - actes 2 et 3
mercredi : *La Dame aux camélias* (terminez)
Présentation/article #4

**Semaine #12 11/4-13/4**
lundi : « Le Bonheur dans le crime » (20 pages)
mercredi : « Le Bonheur dans le crime » (pgs136-54)

**Semaine #13 18/4-20/4**
lundi : « Le Bonheur dans le crime » (terminez)
Présentation/article #5
mercredi : Préparation du projet
*Dissertation #3 à rendre - vendredi avant 16h

**Semaine #14 25/4-27/4**
lundi : *Boule de suif* (première moitié)
mercredi : *Boule de suif* (terminez)

**Semaine #15 2/5-4/5**
lundi : Poèmes de Krysinska
mercredi : consultations avec le professeur

Mercredi, le 11 mai avant 17h - travail final à rendre dans le Dropbox de D2L